GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:188
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2003
WATERSHED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had sponsored an evaluation study on watershed development projects in the particularly in Andhra Pradesh by the Agricultural VO.Finance Corporations;

(b) if so; the details and the findings of the study;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government propose to sanction more such projects, and if so, details thereof; State-wise;

(e) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the State Governmentfor external assistance under the project; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken by he Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR) :

(a) to (c) Yes Sir, Ministry of Rural development (MoRD) entrusted a quick evaluation study of its watershed programmes in the country including Andhra Pradesh to Agricultural Finance Corporation in 1999-2000. These programmes are the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) and Desert Development Programme(DDP). The main findings of the study were as follows:

(i) There was an overall increase in productivity of major crops where watershed programmes were implemented.

(ii) The average annual income of households increased significantly.

(iii) There was overall increase in irrigation coverage and reduction in soil erosion.

(iv) Community assets such as Nala banks stabilization gullies stabilization withvegetative hedges, percolation tanks and nurseries were created under the programme.

(v) Employment to the tune of about 6.47 lakh Mandays was generated in the programme areas, which helped in improving the socio-economic conditions of rural poor.

(d) Projects under DPAP/DDP/IWDP are sanctioned within the overall budgetary allocationto the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development) keeping in view therequirements of funds for on-going projects (sanctioned in previous years), the extent of wastelands in the State, the progress and utilisation of funds in on-going projects, incidence of poverty, backwardness and other related factors. New Projects for development of 6.68 lakh ha. at a total cost of about Rs. 400.00 crores, spread over a period of five years, have been sanctioned under the three programmes for various Districts of Andhra Pradeshfrom 1.4.2000 to 31.1.2003. The number of projects sanctioned State-wise from 1.4.2000 to 31.1.2003 is given in the enclosed statement I to III.

(e) and (f) The Department of Land Resources(Ministry of Rural Development) has receivedthree proposals from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for seeking external assistance. The projects are:

(i) Watershed Programme for Dutch Assistance.

(ii) AP Groundwater Borewell Irrigation Scheme (APWELL Project) for Dutch Assistance.

(iii) Project Proposal for Technical Cooperation Component of Watershed Project for GermanAssistance. Ministry has supported the proposals and recommended them to Department of Economic Affairs for pursuing with donor agencies.